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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Austin, September 29, 2022** -- The Forensic Project is pleased to confirm that today our client, Mr. Billy Faircloth, was granted bond by Judge Selena Alvarenga of the 460<sup>th</sup> Criminal District Court. During the hearing, Judge Alvarenga also recommended that Mr. Faircloth be granted relief on his claim that he was wrongfully convicted based on faulty DNA evidence from the now-shuttered Austin Police Department DNA Laboratory.

The Forensic Project was created in 2016 to review cases that may have been affected by faulty DNA evidence. Mr. Faircloth's case is part of the Austin Police Department DNA Review Project, which is funded by an interlocal agreement between Travis County and the City of Austin to review and litigate cases in which problematic DNA from the former APD DNA Laboratory materially affected the outcome of a case.

While The Forensic Project is pleased with the outcome of today's proceedings, both Judge Alvarenga's recommendation and grant of bond are steps in the post-conviction process. Mr. Faircloth's DNA claim will now be sent to the Texas Criminal Court of Appeals, which will make the ultimate determination on whether Mr. Faircloth should receive a new trial.

"We are gratified that the DA's Office agreed that Mr. Faircloth is entitled to relief on the DNA claim after reviewing his case and the hard work done by Mr. Faircloth's legal team, and we are grateful for Judge Alvarenga's conscientious consideration of the circumstances of Mr. Faircloth's case," said Forensic Project Director Stacie Lieberman. "Today's proceedings were a step forward in Mr. Faircloth's post-conviction proceedings. We look forward to the Court of Criminal Appeals' careful review of the DNA claim."

The Forensic Project is thankful for the continuing commitment of Travis County and the City of Austin to working with us to achieve justice for those affected by faulty forensic evidence.

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